

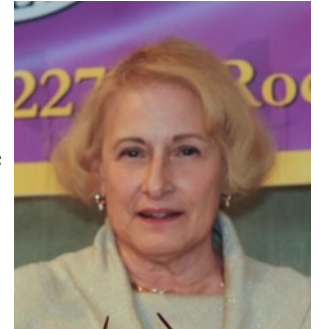


The Roar of the Lion

Marisa Rubé Przepiora, editor
March 2024 Edition

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Winter Picnic and Clambake was a huge success. We had more than fifty members and friends in attendance. We enjoyed good food including the clams, good company, and good drink. We raffled off baskets, a spring wreath, and held a 50/50. At the end, we toasted Br. Luigi DiFilippo and shared some wonderful memories. I want to thank everyone who helped with set-up, clean-up, and steaming the clams. As we move closer to spring, we hope for warm days and sunshine, flowers blooming and enjoyable walks, shedding winter coats and heavy sweaters.



I hope you will take the opportunity to see the Cabrini movie. It comes to the theatres on March 8th, and it is well worth seeing.

Easter comes early this year, but do you know how the date is decided? It occurs on the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox, which is Tuesday, March 19th. The first full moon after the start of spring is on March 25th.

We look forward to our Regional Dinner, featuring Puglia, with our own member Chef Rosita Caridi-Miller, sharing her culinary talents with us. Puglia has always been an agricultural area, known as the “breadbasket of Italy”. Along with growing grapes for wine, tomatoes, artichokes, eggplant, and wheat, it also produces more olive oil than any other region. It has one of the longest coastlines in Italy, so fishing is also an important aspect of their economy. Sr. Rosita is planning a delectable menu to be paired with wines. We hope you will join us on Sunday, April 28th at the Eyer Building.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Calendar of Events.....2
- Members Corner.....3
- CSJ Report.....6
- Spotlight: Puglia.....7
- Culture.....8
- March Holidays.....10
- Pictures.....11

The Opera Guild of Rochester is very active. Their website is operaguildofrochester.org. Each month they put out a newsletter with all the activities they are involved with. They have announced their Spring Lecture/Listening Series at the Brighton Memorial Library starting at 6 pm. Eastman Opera Theatre is presenting Dialogues des Carmelites on April 4,5, and 6 at 7:30 pm and on April 7 at 2 pm, Kodak Hall Eastman Theatre. Finger Lakes announces its 2024 Summer Young Artist Roster. Rochester has one of only a few Italian Baroque organs at the Memorial Art Gallery. Eastman School of Music students will be performing on March 21st at 7:30. More information can be found in the Opera Guild’s Viva Voce newsletter.

Rochester is very fortunate to have the cultural arts that we have. There is no lack of good music and theatre. Along with the activities of our Lodge, you can stay engaged and have an enjoyable spring and summer.

Take Care and God Bless,
Fraternally yours,
Marjorie

2024 Vincent Lombardi Lodge Calendar

March 7th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
March 14th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

April 4th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
April 11th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

May 2nd, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
May 9th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

**May 5th, Time TBD: Italian Regional Dinner
Eyer Building (East Rochester)**

June 6th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
June 13th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

July 4th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting Cancelled
July 11th, 7pm: **Scholarship Awards Night**

August 1st, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
August 8th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

**August 10th, Time TBD: Members Picnic
Eyer Building (East Rochester)**

September 5th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
September 12th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

October 3rd, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
October 10th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

**October 25th, Time TBD: Heritage Dinner
Webster Golf Club (440 Salt Rd, Webster)**

November 7th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
November 14th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting

**November 16th, Time TBD: Papa Antolini Turkey
Raffle
St Nicholas Society (206 Madison St, East
Rochester)**

December 5th, 6:30pm: Council Meeting
**December 12th, 7pm: General Assembly Meeting
and Holiday Gathering**

A Forgotten Brother

Over 110 years ago, a Sicilian lawyer exiled himself from his beloved island and lived the rest of his life in Rochester, always working to improve the life of the Italian immigrant. He was a proud lodge member.



At our March 14 meeting brother Ed Groszewski will give a presentation explaining why Matteo left Sicily, the struggles he found here and his contributions to Italian-American history and culture.



**WELCOME
SPRING, MARCH
19TH**



(credit Midpen Media Center 2021)

March 8th - International Women's Day is a global celebration with a focus on the women's rights movement: gender equality, reproductive rights, violence and abuse against women. It is a means to recognize women's achievements and raise awareness against discrimination.

Green, purple, and white are the representative colors for International Women's Day.

Purple represents justice and dignity as well as being loyal to the cause. Green symbolizes hope. White stands for purity.

Although International Women's Day goes back more than 100 years, it wasn't until March 8, 1946 when feminist in Italy chose the mimosa flower as a symbol of strength, sensibility, and sensitivity.





3/6: Jeffrey Arigo
3/8: Chris Przepiora
3/10: Ann Battaglia
3/14: Kitty DiNicola
3/16: Don Campese
3/26: Mary Rinere
3/30: Shirley Sculli



Sending healing thoughts and prayers to all of our members who have suffered injury or illness recently.



We had 56 attendees at the Winter Picnic/Clambake. I want to thank everyone who helped out. Because I don't remember everyone, I will not list names, with a few exceptions, for fear of leaving anyone out.

My sincere gratitude to Br. Louis DeCarolis who let us use his steamer; Sr. Pat Bartholomew for the Easter door wreath that was raffled; Sr. Kitty DiNicola for the gift basket that was raffled and the limoncello to toast Br. Luigi DiFilippo; Br. Jeremy DiFilippo for getting the Bushman Cabin at the residence's rate. It was a great way to spend a dreary Sunday afternoon.

La Bella Lingua Award

Sponsored by
NYS Grand Lodge Commission for Social Justice

Open to any graduating senior who has studied Italian language for a minimum of three years at an accredited high school. Application and information included in the important links section of this newsletter.

Completed application and supporting documents are due by March 31st to:

Marjorie Focarazzo
84 Mulcahy Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14624
MAFocarazzo@gmail.com
585-749-5346

Join our General Assembly Meetings by Zoom



You now have the option to join our General Assembly meetings by zoom if you are unable to attend in person.

Please join us at 7pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82651398467?pwd=SmlnbDhxZWlHS0gvVHJjblB0UjJBUT09>

Meeting ID: 826 5139 8467
Passcode: 865390

NYS Grand Lodge Convention



Any member who would like to represent the Vincent Lombardi Lodge at the NYS Grand Lodge Convention, please submit your name to Sr. Marjorie no later than March 13th.

Convention will be held June 27th thru June 30th at the Desmond in Albany, NY

We are able to send two delegates along with the president and immediate past president. We will confirm our delegation at the March 14th General Assembly Meeting



Do you know of anyone to be considered as an honoree at the Vincent Lombardi Lodge Heritage Dinner to be held on Friday, Oct. 25th? The Awards Committee is looking for those individuals or families who have made a contribution to our community. The important criteria is that person or family must be of Italian descent.

In the past we have presented awards for: Man of the Year, Woman of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, and Family of the Year. Please send us their name(s), the reason or reasons that person should be considered, contact information for the nominee, and which category they would best be considered for.



New York State Grand Lodge Foundation 2024 Charitable and State Programs Raffle

- 1st Prize \$20,000
- 2nd Prize \$5000
- 3rd Prizes: 2 @ \$2000 each
- 4th Prizes: 3 @ \$1000 each
- 5th Prizes: 5 @ \$500 each

Ticket Cost: \$100 ea.

Ticket Numbers:

0061,0166,0254,0351, 0454, 0543,0652,0745,0853,0954

Deadline to Purchase is May 20, 2024
Drawing will be held on Saturday, June 29, 2024
Contact Marjorie if interested in purchasing.



Editor's note....

As 2024 rolls in, I celebrate 10 years as your newsletter editor. That's right around 120 editions of this newsletter.

I took this task on to carry forward my sister's work after her death and I've enjoyed the work tremendously. Our newsletter is one of the main ways we get information out to our members, and also gives us a place to learn about our heritage and culture. But 10 years is a long time, and it's time for someone else to take the reigns and take our newsletter into the future. If you think you might have any interest in taking over this task to support our lodge, I would love to have a conversation with you to explain how it currently works, and the extent of the work involved.

This is a way for you to support our lodge with much flexibility as to when the work gets done, and I promise, it's not as daunting as it may seem. Contact me at marisarube@gmail.com to get that conversation started.



OSDIA Scholarships

Vincent Lombardi Lodge #2270
Scholarship deadline is March 31st. For application or more information, contact Sr. Marisa Przepiora at marisarube@gmail.com

New York State Grand Lodge Scholarship Deadline is March 31st. For more information contact Sr. Marjorie Focarazzo MAFocarazzo@gmail.com

Students are eligible to apply for both



Calling all Winemakers!

Every year at convention there is a contest for the best homemade wine. A member submits their homemade wine, either red or white or both, and delegates taste each of the wines submitted and vote on which one they like best. It is all done in fun.

It has been a few years since we submitted any homemade wines, and it may be fun to be part of this. Anyone who would like to submit homemade wines, this is the process I am considering:

All members who would like to participate will submit their homemade wine, but there must be enough to have a bottle of the same for convention.

At our May General Assembly Meeting, all attendees would have an opportunity to taste each wine and after each tasting grade or rate the wine on color, clarity, aroma, taste, finish on a scale of 1 to 5. The wine, red and white, with the best score is the one we will take.

Each bottle submitted to us will be placed in a brown paper bag with a number so no one will be influenced by who the wine maker is.

Please let Sr. Marjorie know if wine makers are willing to participate. This could be fun!!





News from Frank DiMino Casa Italiana at Nazareth University

Oral History Project: Since the fall of 2022, Nazareth's Frank DiMino Casa Italiana and the Center for Public History (CPH) are collaborating on an Oral History project led by the CPH director, Professor Timothy Kneeland, and the Casa Italiana director, Dr. Joëlle Carota. This project started in 2015 as a pilot project and Naz students and interns are currently bringing it back to life. The Frank DiMino Casa Italiana aims to preserve the oral history and traditions of the Italian-American Community in Rochester. Our goal is to document and preserve traditions handed down through the ages as well as digitize historical files for ease of access for both the community and the university. The stories, the traditions, the struggles and joys of our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents will be gone forever if we decide to do nothing. Their history is imbedded in our own lives.

Please help to preserve our history and stories by scheduling an appointment at the Casa to be interviewed for the Oral History Project. Our real-life stories tell more about who we are than what can be read in a history book. Story telling is powerful. Stories appeal to our senses and our emotions, not only drawing our attention more easily, but also leaving an impact on us as audiences. They help us to convey information in a way that's more compelling and interesting than data or statistics alone, and they connect us on an emotional level and relate to others.

The Vincent Lombardi Lodge is helping the Casa by calling members to help and set up an interview time, but if you are interested in having your voice heard, please don't wait for someone to contact you, call the Casa and set up an interview.



This is Rheanna Barney, an Italian and history major, who is creating an archive of @nazareth_casaitaliana historical records as part of the Oral History Project that we are conducting in collaboration with the Center for Public History at Naz. Interested in participating? Please email Dr. Carota (jcarota3@naz.edu) or Dr. Kneeland (tkneela8@naz.edu).

The Italian Conversation Table is an informal conversation group led by Daniel Speciale at Casa Italiana. Its goal is to provide attendees with an opportunity to speak Italian in a casual setting. The next meetings are December 21st and December 28th at 5:00 pm. Contact Daniel at dspecia0@naz.edu if you are interested in attending.

Casa Gift Certificates: give a gift of Italian culture, language, or cooking lessons Contact the Casa at (585)389-2468, or email at casa@naz.edu for more details. The Casa is located at 4345 East Avenue.

Community Service - Fairy Godmothers of Rochester



Fairy Godmothers of Rochester has been providing girls the resources they need to have a magical and unforgettable high school prom experience.

2024 Prom Season is almost here!

Do you have prom or formal dresses taking up room in your closet and aren't sure what to do with them? Why not free up that space and give those dresses the opportunity for another young lady to enjoy.

Dresses and accessories can be dropped off at Marketplace Mall on the following dates (1 Miracle Mile Dr. Rochester, NY 14623 North Entrance, Space E12 - Across from Spencer Gifts)

Mar 2, 2024
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Mar 6, 2024
4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Mar 9, 2024
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Mar 13, 2024
4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Mar 16, 2024
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Mar 20, 2024
4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Mar 23, 2024
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Mar 27, 2024
4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Mar 30, 2024
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

New York State Commission for Social Justice Report John Fratta, Chair



Dabbene Essay Contest: Chair, Geraldine Graham would like contest information to be distributed in June with a deadline in September. This is limited to family members (children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews) who have a lodge affiliation.

Holocaust: Vince Marmorale, originator of the program, will attend the Social Studies Teachers' Convention this month and present on Italy's involvement. His research showed that no schools stopped teaching German.

Anniversary of the Petrosino Assassination (picture credited to Wikipedia)

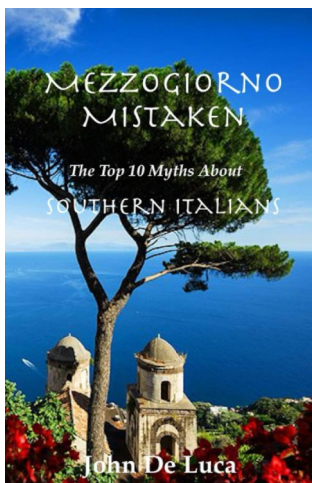


March 12, 1909, Italian born NYPD Lt. Joseph (Giuseppe) Petrosino, who was a pioneer in the fight against organized crime, was murdered. He was fluent in several dialects and was able to make cases other police officers could not. He had an innate ability to solve crimes in the Italian community and was repeatedly called upon. Teddy Roosevelt promoted him to lieutenant and placed him in charge of the Italian Squad, an elite group of Italian American detectives to deal with criminal activities of organizations that Petrosino felt brought shame upon decent Italians and Italian Americans.

One particular case involved the Italian tenor Enrico Caruso who was performing at the Metropolitan Opera House. Caruso was being extorted by the Black Hand gangsters who demanded money in exchange for his life. Petrosino loved the opera and convinced Caruso to collaborate with him to catch the blackmailers.

He investigated the Barrel Murders, known for disposing of the murdered in barrels. He was also involved with Mafia activities led by Vito Cascio Ferro, who was arrested in 1903 on suspicion of murder. Ferro was acquitted and returned to Sicily where he rose to the top rank of the Sicilian Mafia. Later Ferro was suspected of arranging Petrosino's assassination.

He went to Palermo Sicily on a secret mission in 1909. Lured to the Piazza Marina to obtain information, he was gunned down. Although Ferro was arrested for the murder, he had to be released after his alibi was confirmed. Upon news of his death, Theodore Roosevelt was taken aback and said "Petrosino was a great man and a good man. I knew him for years, and he did not know the name of fear." Crime fighting techniques that Petrosino pioneered are still practiced by law enforcement agencies.



Book recommended by the CSJ, *Mezzogiorno Mistaken, The Top 10 Myths About Southern Italians* by John De Luca. Published in 2020. "Despite excellence throughout history, Southern Italians still endure stereotypes about their intellects, bloodlines, and whether they are inherently criminal. This book reviews and rebuts the various stereotypes, tall tales, and myths, like the notion that Southern Italian culture and genes come from exotic influences; that every Southern Italian is involved in the mafia, and that Northern Italians are somehow superior. It covers a variety of issues in a readable, hard-to-put-down fashion, everything from the controversies surrounding Columbus, to the Italian American immigration experience, to various notions on Italian food. It is a delightful and humorous mix of history, pop culture, and travelogue" (review credited to Google Books)

Spotlight on: Puglia

Places to visit



Alberobello is a small Italian town, also known as the Home of the Trulli. Small houses with conical roofs line the narrow and hilly streets. The name of the city originated from the medieval Latin name of the region “siva arboris belli” (The wood of the tree of war).



Polignano A Mare is a seaside gem located atop a 20 meter high limestone cliff above the Adriatic Sea. The origins of this enchanting place date back to the 4th century BC when Greek settlers founded the city. The Blue Flag Beach is just a few minutes’ walk from the old center. It is a favorite with the locals, the beach has crystal clear waters and is flanked on two sides by cliffs from which children and teenagers dive all through the day until sunset. Arco di San Felice in Gargano



Arco di San Felice, which is located near Vieste, is one of the main jewels of the Gargano, and can easily be considered a treasure chest in which to enjoy a wonderfully enchanting landscape and a

destination for finding moments of carefree happiness. The famous Architiello is a rocky arch that hides a fascinating legend in its grandeur. In fact, it is said that this was carved out of the rocks by sea nymphs and Tritons. According to tradition, this was created in honor of Neptune, the king of the sea and his wife Amphitrite, after they had spent a romantic holiday in these places.



Tremiti Islands also known as the Isole Diomedee are an archipelago in the Adriatic Sea. San Nicola Island has the 11th-century Santa Maria a Mare abbey, with mosaic flooring, and the waterfront

Castello dei Badiali fortress. Pine-covered San Domino Island features beaches and cliffs, including the Ripa dei Falconi, a breeding ground for rare falcons.

Regional Cuisine

(provided by Sr. Karen Pelc)

Fave Bianche e Loane *Fettuccine with White Fava Beans*



2 cups fresh, shelled white fava beans, peeled
¾ lb. loane (tagliatelle made without egg) of fettuccine
½ cup olive oil
1 garlic clove
1 dried chili pepper
Salt

Loane are tagliatelle made using only water and flour. Fava beans are cultivated in alternation with wheat, which refreshed fallow ground (known as crop rotation). This dish can be enriched with bits of bread sauteed in a pan and brought to the table in a bowl to be shared. Preparation of the bread: tear up stale bread and put in a pan with heated olive oil. Cook, continually stirring to prevent sticking or burning, until golden brown.

Cook fava beans in a saucepan, covered with water, for one hour. When the beans are disintegrating, puree in a food mill to obtain a liquid puree. Cook the loane or fettuccini in lightly salted boiling water until al dente, drain, and add to bean puree. Heat olive oil in a small saucepan. Add garlic and chili pepper, season with salt. When garlic becomes translucent, pour into the past mixture. Let rest a few minutes and serve.

Coniglio Con I Peperoni *Rabbit with Peppers*



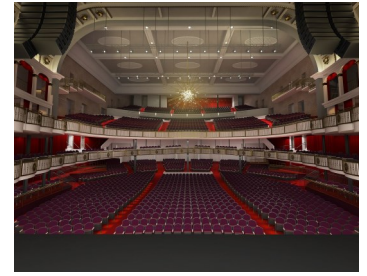
½ cup extra virgin olive oil
4 tbsp unsalted butter
1 sprig Rosemary, minced
1 garlic clove, minced
2 ½ lbs. rabbit meat, cut into pieces
Broth
3 large yellow peppers, cored, seeded, and cut into long pieces
3 tbsp. white wine vinegar

Heat half the olive oil and all of the butter over low heat, add rosemary and garlic. Cook until fragrant. Add rabbit. As the meat cooks, add broth to keep the meat from drying out.

In a separate pan, heat the remaining olive oil and add peppers. When cooked, add vinegar. When the vinegar has evaporated, add the peppers to the pan with the rabbit and simmer until the rabbit is cooked and peppers are soft. Serve warm.



Live from the Metropolitan Opera Tinseltown ~ Webster 12 ~ Eastview Mall 13



La Forza Del Destino

March 9, 2024 at 12Noon
Encore, March 13th at 1 PM

Sung in Italian
4 hours 20 minutes with two intermissions

Verdi's grand tale of ill-fated love, deadly vendettas, and family strife. Mid-eighteenth-century, Spain and Italy. Don Alvaro, a young nobleman from South America, falls in love with Leonora, daughter of the Marquis of Calatrava, who is vehemently against the union. Alvaro accidentally shoots the Marquis who dies, cursing his daughter, who takes refuge in a monastery. Through a strange twist of fate, Alvaro and Leonora both seek refuge in the same monastery at separate times, and live there unaware of each other's presence until. . .



Romeo et Juliette

March 23rd at 12:55 pm
Encore, March 27th at 1:00 pm

Sung in French
3 hours 30 minutes with one intermission

Verona, 18th Century: Juliette and Roméo meet by chance at a masked ball at Capulet's palace and fall instantly in love, but Juliette is promised to someone else. The two meet later that night in secret and profess their love for each other.

Hoping that their love might reconcile their families, Frère Laurent marries them. Tragedy separates them and creates an even bigger rift between the families. Capulet tells Juliette she is to marry her betrothed and Frere Laurent gives her a potion that will make her appear dead but promises her she will awaken with Romeo beside her. She overcomes her fear and drinks the poison. On the way to the chapel where her wedding is to take place, Juliette collapses. To the guests' horror, Capulet announces that she is dead.

Roméo arrives at the Capulets' crypt. Discovering Juliette's body, he believes her to be dead and drinks poison. At that moment, she awakens, and the lovers share a final dream of a future together. As Roméo grows weaker, Juliette takes a dagger from his belt and stabs herself. The lovers die praying for God's forgiveness.





Coming to the Theatres on March 8th

*The story of
Mother Francesca Saverio Cabrini
Italian American Nun
Patron Saint of Immigrants*

We have come a long way since our grandparents and great grandparents stepped onto the shores of Ellis Island (or some place similar). Many of us live comfortable lives, are treated fairly decently, have rights, and can have our voices heard if we choose to speak. Our ancestors, many who crossed the Atlantic in steerage, had no idea what they would find here, but hoping it was better from what they left behind, and many left a lot behind. They believed the streets were lined with gold. They lived as inexpensively as possible in conditions that Americans would consider intolerable and deplorable. They took on heavy construction jobs, provided labor for factories and mines, and helped to build the infrastructure of this country. Italian immigrants were among the lowest-paid workers in the United States. Child labor was common, and even small children often went to work in factories, mines, and farms, or sold newspapers on city streets.

Public Notice of Daily Wages:

Common Labor, white:	\$1.30-\$1.50
Common Labor, colored	\$1.25-\$1.40
Common Labor, Italian	\$1.15-\$1.25

Dangerous Working conditions: 1911 NYC Triangle Shirtwaist Factory File filled 146 garment works-mostly Italian and Jewish women and girls.

Dangerous Working Conditions: In 1914, the Colorado National Guard and Colorado Fuel and Iron Company guards attacked striking coal miners and their families, the majority of whom were Italian and Mexican, in Ludlow, Colorado. Two dozen people, including miners' wives and children, were killed. The mine's owner, John D. Rockefeller Jr., was widely criticized for the incident, which became a watershed moment in American labor relations.

America has been considered the melting pot with a long history of welcoming immigrants. This is true, in part. It also has a long history of treating some immigrants with open discrimination and open hostility.

In 1891, eleven Sicilians were lynched or shot to death in New Orleans by a mob seeking justice for a murdered policeman, although they had been exonerated. New York Times at that time wrote in an editorial: "These sneaking and cowardly Sicilians, the descendants of bandits and assassins, who have transported to this country the lawless passions, the cut-throat practices, and the oath-bound societies of their native country, are to us a pest without mitigation. Our own rattlesnakes are as good citizens as they... Lynch law was the only course open to the people of New Orleans to stay the issue of a new license to the Mafia to continue its bloody practices."

In 1899, five Italians were hung in Tallulah, LA over a disagreement about a goat.

1890 at a Congressional hearing, a construction boss was asked, "You don't call an Italian a white man?" "Oh, no, "the boss replied. "An Italian is a dago."

In 1899 Sr. Frances Xavier Cabrini arrived in New York City. She was shocked, alarmed, disturbed, appalled at the conditions, which were horrendous, horrifying, and unbearable, that her beloved Italians were living in: cramped, poorly lit, no ventilation or indoor plumbing, hotbeds of vermin and diseases: cholera, typhus, tuberculosis. She was as resourceful as she was prayerful, finding people who would donate what she needed in money, time, labor, and support.

Mother Cabrini died of complications from malaria at age 67. Cabrini was beatified on November 13, 1938, by Pope Pius XI, and canonized on July 7, 1946, by Pope Pius XII.[8][1] Her beatification miracle involved purportedly restoring the sight of a day-old baby who had been blinded by a 50% silver nitrate solution instead of the normal 1% solution in the child's eyes. That baby was present at her beautification and became a priest.

The movie, *Cabrini*, is more than the life story of a sickly child who wanted to make a difference to the poor, homeless, and unemployed. It is more than a story of someone who was diligent, resourceful, and persevered. Her story is our story. Her arrival on American shores is the arrival of all Italian immigrants from 1870 to 1920 on American shores. **Lest we forget.**

St. Joseph's Table



St. Joseph's Day Table (photo: All Photos by Kevin Di Camillo)

St. Joseph's Day is also Father's Day in Italy, March 19th. The tradition has its origins in Sicily and is a symbolic thank you and a renewal of the devotion to St.

Joseph. It is a community celebration where food is given as alms to the poor, and no one can be turned away from the feast. Generally, a statue of St. Joseph is placed at the head of the table and is surrounded by gifts of various foods, citrus fruits, and of course, breads. The abundant use of sesame seeds resembles and symbolizes teardrops that are sprinkled on many different types of breads.

Symbolics meanings:

The Latin Cross: The ultimate symbol of our Lord's suffering and salvation.

The Bambino: The baby Jesus to whom St. Joseph was foster father.

St. Joseph's Staff: Legend has it that St. Joseph's staff blossomed into a lily, a symbol both of life and death.

St. Joseph's Purse: This symbol is a reminder to give alms to the poor during Lent.

A Sheaf of Wheat: Wheat is a reminder that, when a single, tiny grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it bears much more food at harvest time — and that the early spring harvest of greens is almost here.

St. Joseph himself: He is always represented in profile and hunched over with a cane, symbolizing that he was (according to tradition) an old man, while Mary was a much younger woman.

St. Joseph's Beard: This is actually just the Sheaf of Wheat turned upside down, but young children delight when their fathers and grandfathers hold their beard up to their face. It is another reminder of Joseph's wisdom and old age.

Heart: A symbol of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary that flourished throughout Italy in general and Sicily in particular in the 19th century.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



St. Patrick was not Irish, but actually born in Great Britain to wealthy parents, and there is no evidence to show that his family was religious. It is believed that he was taken captive by Irish raiders at 16 years and was held as a prisoner for six years in Ireland. He spent most of his time away from people and turned to his religion becoming a devout Christian.

After what he believed to be the voice of God telling him it was time to leave Ireland, he escaped making his way back to Great Britain. It was here that he believes an angel came to him in a dream telling him to return to Ireland as a missionary. He began his religious training and studied for the next 15 years.

He returned to Ireland to minister to the Christians living there and to convert the Irish to Christianity. His preferred to incorporate traditional rituals with his Christian lessons to convert the Irish. Most practiced nature-based pagan rituals, and the culture was rich in oral legend and myth. This has led to exaggeration of Patrick's life.

Although we consider him the patron saint of Ireland, he was never actually canonized by the Catholic Church. It is believed that through his teachings and missionary work, he has been considered a saint by popular acclaim.

How he reached the Irish: he used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish used fire to honor their gods. He superimposed the sun, a powerful Irish symbol, to create the Celtic cross.

Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man, whose love and total devotion to and trust in God should be a shining example to each of us.



2024 Winter Picnic and Clambake



OSDIA Vincent Lombardi Lodge
84 Mulcahy Blvd
Rochester, NY 14624

President
Marjorie Focarazzo

Vice-President
Jeremy DiFilippo

Recording Secretary
Patricia Bartholomew

Financial Secretary
Marisa Przepiora

Treasurer
Carol DiNicola

Orator
Joe Rubé

Mistress of Ceremony
Melissa DiStaffen

Sentinel
Vacant

Trustees
Tom Meleca
Catherine DiNicola
Ron Santoli
Maurice Palucci
Becky DiFilippo

Immediate Past President
Sandra Meleca

Chaplain
Patricia Galante

**District VIII State
Trustee**
Vincent Giannantonio

Chaplain Emeritus
Sister Carole Proia

**State Deputy to Vincent Lombardi
Lodge**
Peter Gillotte

State Deputy to Geneva Lodge
Jeremy DiFilippo

Past Presidents
Joseph Lusardi*
Thomas Laverne*
Louis Giambra*
Joseph Vazzana *
John March*
Victor Bell*
Peter Cimino*
Sam Parese*
Cosmo Caceci*
Michael La Comba*
Shirley Sculli
Phillip Dattilo*
Joseph Berta*
Joseph Rubé
Jennifer Rubé*
Vincent Giannantonio
Sandra Meleca

All Vincent Lombardi Lodge communications should be sent to:

**President Marjorie Focarazzo
84 Mulcahy Blvd
Rochester, NY 14624
mafocarazzo@gmail.com**